

[Jan.

derived from their use in my hands. Curiously enough, the bowels very often discharge freely large quantities of thin feculent matter, several hours after the application of the blister. The diet all the while should be such as to support the strength, and yet must be light and easy of digestion. With this object, beef tea, with bread, rice, sago, &c., may be given in small quantities, frequently repeated.

"These means, varied according to circumstances, form the essentials in the treatment of such cases, and, if commenced early enough, prove eminently successful. But where, on the contrary, delay has occurred until the parts have become inflamed, not only may the treatment of the obstruction require modification, but, in addition, the means calculated to subdue the inflammatory action must form a sequel to the steps already named. In cases of the latter description, the greatest care will be demanded, lest the obstruction should escape notice, for instances are not wanting where this has happened, the attention of the physician being directed solely to the obtrusively prominent symptoms of the enteritis. Symptoms of inflammatory action, with great abdominal tenderness, confined principally to the right side, may, with justice, raise a suspicion of obstruction in that portion of the intestinal canal. It is to this class of cases that the name *typhlitis* properly applies."

17. Intestinal Concretions.—At the meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Paris, on the 14th of August, 1855, Mr. CROQUET placed before that body a series of preparations and drawings of intestinal concretions, and expressed himself as follows:—

"The concretions, found in the alimentary canal, may be divided into two classes. The first includes enterolithes in man, and bezors in animals; both being the result of encraneous deposits secreted by the parietes of the intestines. The second class comprises abnormal masses, such as solids (animal or vegetable hairs which have escaped the process of digestion, and agglomerate to form oegnropiles), putrefactive substances (magnesia with people who take it in excess), foreign bodies (kernels of fruit, biliary calculi, hardened feces), casein in subjects who use a milk diet.

"I have established a comparison between the first class, and those concretions which form normally with certain animals, by crystallization of a calcareous and magnesian salt, as in eggs, the crustaceans, &c. With man, similar deposits may take place by a morbid state of the mucous or false membrane.

"In this drawing are seen the normal concretions in eggs with double shells, as in those of the ostrich, &c. Then we have the enterolithes found in man: here are two; one of them has caused the death of the patient, and was the result of a deposit of phosphate of lime around a pin which had stopped in the cæcum; the other is an ivory pessary, one portion of which has penetrated the bowel, and is incrusted with phosphate of lime, and the other portion reached the bladder, and became covered with lithic acid. Here is a deposit of phosphate of lime and magnesia formed around a wax bougie, which had been introduced into the vagina. Here are hardened feculent masses perforated in their centre, and leaving a canal through which natural motions and even diarrhoea took place. There are several specimens of bezors; here is one with an irregularly mammulated surface, where holes are seen which correspond with internal subdivisions. Amongst the number of bezors now exhibited, one may be observed, in the interior of which the iron extremity of a spear is seen. Here is one from a horse, the nucleus of which is formed by a piece of brick; the surface is rugose and eroded, as if it had been acted upon by the secretions of the stomach.

"I now pass on the oegnropiles. Here is a plate of a vesical calculus found in an English lady, the nucleus being formed by hairs. Here is a concretion composed of adipocire and crystals of phosphate of lime, formed around hairs of a light colour; it was found in the uterus of a woman of fifty. Here is an oegnropile coming from a lion affected with scabies; these are generally found in animals who lick themselves; with human beings they are only found in insane people. A boy and girl, who were in the habit of swallowing their hair, have had such concretions. The hairs of marine plants may thus be-

come aggregated, but less regularly than by the vermicular motions of the intestines.

" Bits of straw or some hay may become nuclei; here is one composed half of vegetable matter and half of oxalate of lime. We have in this plato a representation of a muslin veil swallowed by a young horse, which became incrusted with saline matter and vegetable fibre. I would remark, in conclusion, that with birds of prey, especially of the nocturnal variety, normal regurgitation may form, as the bones and hairs swallowed by these birds become rolled in a bolus, and are rejected after digestion by means of a regurgitation, which is very similar to rumination."

18. *On the Communication of Syphilis by Vaccine Lymph.*—The question of the influence of syphilis upon vaccination is one of importance; the opinion is very wide spread among the laity, that vaccine lymph taken from an unhealthy child generates disease. A case in point has lately occurred in Bamberg, a town of Bavaria, where a medical man was condemned to two years' imprisonment for having vaccinated several children from a child exhibiting a syphilitic eruption on its face and body. The witnesses asserted that the vaccine pustules had not been properly developed, and were followed by tedious ulcerations. Moreover, nine grown-up persons were asserted to be reinfected by the children tainted through the vaccine pustule. The judgment was commuted in consequence of the opinions expressed by Messrs. Heyfesler and Pauli, two distinguished medical men of Rhenish Bavaria, whose judgment has been supported by that of Ricord and Cullerier, who utterly deny the possibility of communication of the syphilitic poison by the agency of vaccine lymph. Cullerier, according to the *Bulletin de Thérapeutique*, from which we extract these facts, states that he has not only vaccinated syphilitic children without ever seeing the vaccine in any way modified by the syphilitic diathesis, but that he has vaccinated healthy children from syphilitic infants without ever perceiving the slightest unpleasant results. The Société de Chirurgie, through their reporter, M. Brocas, have pronounced absolutely in favour of the views of Messrs. Ricord and Cullerier.—*B. & F. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.*, Oct. 1855, from *Bull. Gén. de Thérapi.*, July, 1855.

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND OPERATIVE SURGERY.

19. *Secondary Inflammation of the Joints.*—Mr. COULSON read before the Harveian Society (May 17, 1855) a paper on this subject.

These inflammations, he said, occur during the course of other disorders. They are not accidentally associated with them, but evidently connected by some peculiar link with the primary affections, as is shown not only by the peculiar characters of the secondary diseases, but by the frequency of their occurrence during the course of the primary affection. The term "secondary inflammations" is applied by the author to these diseases of the joints in order to leave open the question of their nature; but he is disposed to affirm that more accurate and extensive investigations will enable us to ascend one step higher, and trace them all to blood-poisoning. Having related the details of a case of gonorrhœal rheumatism, the author observed that the points of most interest in connection with these secondary inflammations of the joints are: 1st. What are the primary diseases with which they are allied? 2d. What is the nature of these secondary affections? are they of rheumatic origin, as the name given to them generally would lead us to suppose, or are they specific inflammations? 3d. If specific inflammations, does each group acquire its specific character from the primary disease on which it depends, or can we trace the whole class of secondary joint affections to one general law, giving to all the same character independently of the particular disease from which the group appears to origi-